



August 12, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of 1000 Friends of Maryland, we urge your support for the City of Baltimore's TIGER II grant application for the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (Westport Waterfront TOD). The Westport Waterfront TOD will provide multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including light rail, highway, pedestrian, bike and road, to support the development of 13,000 new jobs and 2,000 housing units and the rehabilitation of a 50 acre brownfield in a severely distressed area of Baltimore.

1000 Friends of Maryland is a non-profit organization that has worked for 15 years to better link development and transportation with people. This project is exciting and will benefit the community and the region.

As a key supporter of the Westport Waterfront TOD, we believe the Westport TOD meets the TIGER II sustainability and livability criteria by:

- Integrating and expanding the 15-mile Gwynns Falls shared use trail as part of a larger multi-modal network
- Comprehensively addressing stormwater management and habitat restoration within the development as part of the larger restoration of the Middle Branch estuary
- Partnering with a variety of governmental and nonprofit entities to restore the natural environment in the surrounding distressed community and provide green workforce development opportunities.

We and urge you to consider funding the transportation improvements necessary to catalyze the Westport Waterfront TOD and create a national model for sustainable development and community revitalization.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dru Schmidt-Perkins
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Jamie Kendrick, Baltimore City Department of Transportation